

Dear Honorable  
Sen Catherine Osten, Sen Paul Formica, and Rep Toni Walker

My name is Erik J Crespo, I'm a South Windsor resident and my son Fabian is a second grader at CREC's Discovery Academy in Wethersfield.

I am writing to you this evening to ask for your commitment towards maintaining adequate funding for CREC schools like Discovery Academy.

Four years ago, when Fabian was just three years old my wife and I made a willful decision to enroll him into CREC's Discovery Academy program and while we are fortunate to have great schools in our town, our experience at Discover Academy these last four years has won our hearts and academic minds; sealing our commitment to keeping Fabian within the CREC school system.

I want to thank you for your past support for funding magnet schools in Connecticut and share our personal experience to underscore how much your previous support has benefited our family.

Fabian has gained great confidence and passion for learning and we are grateful to be part of the Discovery Academy family. We look forward to the day when Fabian younger sibling will be able to attend Discovery as well; we are confident Fabian will be well prepared for the real world as a result of the CREC academic journey.

In these tight budget times, our magnet schools are at risk. Without sustainable funding, CREC which operates seventeen of these innovative schools, will be forced to either cut programming or to increase the costs they charge to local school districts.

I am asking the legislature to follow through on its promise to invest in the future of *all* students. Magnet schools have a successful track record of closing the achievement gap and providing all students a chance not only to succeed but also to thrive. Currently the State Board is considering adding more Charter Schools. Before you add any more schools, please adequately fund those that you have established and that are thriving. I urge you to continue funding the schools that are already operating and available and have demonstrated success before you consider funding new school choice options.

Thank you for reading my letter. Please reply and share with me how you will ensure that my child's school's funding will remain in place. I look forward to hearing back from you soon.

Sincerely,  
Erik Crespo  
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